

OSRTI AWARD NOMINATION FORM

- 1. Type of Award:** Technical Expert of the Year
- 2. Name of Nominee(s) and Branch:** Lyndsey Nguyen/EPA ERT
- 3. Nominated by:** Eric M. Daly/On-Scene Coordinator, EPA Region 02
- 4. Has the Branch Chief been advised that this nomination is being prepared?**
- 5. Proposed citation on certificate:**
- 6. Narrative summary of accomplishment for which this nomination is made. *(Start the nomination on a separate page; type it in Times Roman 12pt with 1 inch margins. Do not exceed one page.)***

Technical Expert of the Year

Description: This award recognizes a high-performing, non-supervisory employee in a technical position (e.g., biologist, environmental engineer, chemist, environmental scientist, etc.). It recognizes a leader who stands out and whose achievements have positively impacted OSRTI.

The recipient of this award will receive a 2-day time-off award and a certificate.■

Criteria:

- 1) Nominations must describe the employee's leadership, initiative, problem-solving skills, and their significant contributions which demonstrate a high level of subject matter knowledge and expertise.
- 2) Nominations should also cite the nominee's ability to work independently in advancing projects, ability to work well with others both inside and/or outside of the Agency, and their role as an advisor to management in advancing OSRTI's mission.

Eric M. Daly Narrative Summary:

Nomination of Lyndsey Nguyen as Technical Expert of the Year

I am an On-Scene Coordinator from US EPA Region 02. I was hired in 2002 to serve as the radiological response specialist in my region. I have worked directly with Lyndsey Nguyen since July 2015. We officially met in May 2015 during an EPA radiological training in which she presented. I was impressed with her ability to relay the highly technical subject matter in a way that non-health physicists like myself could easily comprehend. In July, 2015, I was in dire need of a health physicist to tackle three new radiological assessments I was recently assigned within EPA Region 02 Removal Program. During my brief outreach to EPA colleagues, Lyndsey was highly recommended by multiple sources. I contacted Mrs. Nguyen and presented her with the aggressive assessment schedule I had tentatively planned and outlined what technical contributions I would require from a health physicist. In hindsight, I would think most would be intimidated by the detailed request and maybe shy away from a project that would depend on significant contributions from a technical expert. Basically, an ERT Special Teams Health Physicists would be asked to develop Region 02 radiological assessment protocols and potentially draft removal action memos as well as serve as technical expert out in the field. Lyndsey took on the challenge immediately. She developed assessment strategies for Niagara Falls Boulevard (Niagara Falls, NY), Holy Trinity Cemetery (Lewiston, NY) and Canadian Radium & Uranium (Mt. Kisco, NY) sites. Lyndsey's knowledge of the Preliminary Remediation Goals for Radionuclides (PRG) calculator as well as her overall radiological assessment and health/safety expertise was a major contributing factor to advancing the assessment activities. Lyndsey created and then independently presented an in depth radiological assessment proposals for the three sites to EPA Region 2 RPB and RAB management. Branch management as well as ERRD upper management were so impressed with Lyndsey's presentation that it was decided all assessment work for the recently referred radiological sites would be conducted as per Lyndsey's proposal and with Lyndsey's direct technical oversight. At the time of this nomination, this still holds true for the three sites as well as additional radiological sites that have been referred to US EPA in Niagara County. Lyndsey took the initiative to develop Quality Control/Quality Assurance procedures for all the radiological instrumentation required for the multiple assessments. Admittedly, this radiological specialization was lacking in our regional established procedures and training. Her dedication to detail and tireless enthusiasm allowed us to initiate two removal actions with Niagara Falls Boulevard and Holy Trinity Sites. Niagara Falls Boulevard Removal Site was considered a higher priority. The action memo was created by Lyndsey and me with all technical aspects of the action memo contributed by Mrs. Nguyen. This action memo was reviewed by US EPA Headquarters, approved for almost \$8 million and set precedence in our region. The removal action started in June 2016 and presented multiple technical hurdles. Lyndsey provided on-site training with the instrumentation as well as instruction on proper decontamination procedures. Lyndsey was on multiple phone conferences with the disposal facility technical personnel and was instrumental in creating an agreement to allow our radioactive material to be properly blended to meet the facilities acceptance criteria. I can state confidentially that without Lyndsey, we would have not removed and properly disposed of approximately 40,000 tons of material so far. Lyndsey has also collaborated with me in various outreach efforts with the property owners associated with the sites, the public, the press, New York State agencies, county agencies and local agencies. She has been an extremely professional, positive and invaluable part of our team.